


Compliance Assistance



# **Pesticide Training Verification Program**

*for Field Worker-  
Employees*



The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) administers a Voluntary Training Verification Program for field-worker employees developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The program enables trainers who meet certain qualifications to issue training verification cards ("blue cards") to field worker-employees who have been trained in pesticide worker safety. This training is required every five years. In addition to determining training needs based on personal interviews with new field worker-employees and observing their work habits, growers may accept a field worker's 'blue card' as verification of prior training. Participation in the program is voluntary.

## How The Program Works

Employers electing to participate in the training verification program must complete and submit an application to DPR and enter into a contract that outlines inventory control and record-keeping requirements. Once an application is approved by DPR, the qualified trainer will receive a supply of serially numbered blue cards for issuing to employees that have received required pesticide safety training. The trainer must fill out required information on each card, and sign it. These cards become the trained employee's property. Regulatory personnel and employers may accept properly completed blue cards as verification that field workers received pesticide safety training.

**NOTE:** California's worker safety regulations require that all employers assure that all their field worker-employees have been trained within the last five years before beginning work in treated fields. If employers choose not to participate in the voluntary program, they can meet this requirement by retaining for five years a copy of a class roster, signed by the trainer and each trainee, indicating the date and the address of the location where the training occurred (see separate booklet for a complete description on the training requirements for field worker-employees).



Copies of the Voluntary Field Worker Training Verification Program Application/Agreement form are available from the DPR, Pest Management and Licensing Branch, Licensing and Certification Program by contacting Adolfo MarvinGallo at (916) 445-3895, or by e-mail: [amarvingallo@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:amarvingallo@cdpr.ca.gov)

### ***What's Involved?***

The applicant must agree to the following terms of the training verification program:

- Issue U.S. EPA's training verification cards only to trainees who are or have been trained according to requirements of the California Worker Safety Regulations contained in Title 3, California Code of Regulations section 6764.
- Use training materials developed or approved by USEPA.
- Record trainee information on the verification cards in ink or other indelible form.
- Retain for five (5) years, a copy of a class roster, signed by the trainer and each trainee, indicating the card number issued to each trainee and the date and

address of the location where the training occurred.

- Issue USEPA training verification cards that match USEPA specifications.
- Respond promptly to requests from USEPA, DPR, county agricultural commissioners, or agricultural employers for information concerning USEPA-issued training verification cards.
- If trainer decides to terminate this agreement, return any unused cards and the records described above to DPR.

## Who Is Qualified To Train Field Workers?

Employers are required to assure that field worker-employees have been trained within the past five years (dating from the first day they are assigned to work in treated fields). Also, the training must be done by a qualified trainer, and the information must be presented in a manner the employee can understand, orally from written materials or audio-visually, using non-technical terms.

The person conducting the training must be qualified as one of the following:

- A California certified commercial applicator.
- A California certified private applicator.
- A person holding a valid County Biologist License in Pesticide Regulation or Investigation and Environmental Monitoring issued by the Department of Food and Agriculture.
- A farm advisor employed by the University of California Extension Office.
- A person who has completed an “instructor trainer” program given by one of the following:
  - University of California, Integrated Pest Management Program (after January 1, 1993).
  - Other instructor-training program approved by the Director.
- A California licensed Agricultural Pest Control Advisor.
- A California Registered Professional Forester.
- Other trainer qualification approved by the Director.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

A complete set of the worker safety regulations is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's web site at: **[www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov)**



**California Department  
of Pesticide Regulation**

A Department of the California  
Environmental Protection Agency